THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. At present there is no proposal under consideration of Government to merge nationalised banks.

(c) The Narsimham Committee had recommended in its report that initiatives for mergers between public sector banks should emanate from the management of the concerned banks and should be based on synergy and business complementarity.

(d) to (f) No nationalised bank has so far made any application for merger with another bank.

Deficit of NER States

962. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deficit of each State of North-Eastern Region, upto date, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to take up measures to adjust the deficit of each State so that the working of financial position of each State of this region can smoothly function; and

(c) whether Government are aware that most of development fund released has been used for payment of employees salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) State-wise position of revenue surplus/deficit in 2001-02 (BE) of the North Eastern States including Sikkim as per available information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, a scheme for States' Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05) has been drawn-up to encourage the States to draw monitorable fiscal reforms programme, linked to a system of incentive, aimed at improving their revenue deficit by 5 percentage points in each year.

Like other States of Indian Union, North Eastern States are

autonomous under the constitution for financial management including the payment of salaries to their employees for which they are responsible to their respective legislatures. The State Governments take measures of their preference from time to time to improve their financial position.

Statement

Revenue Surplus (+)/Deficit (−)

(Rs. in Crores)

	North East States	2001-02 (BE)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	(+) 162.90
2	Assam	(−) 1682.90
3	Manipur	(−) 25.17
4	Meghalaya	(−) 33.70
5	Mizoram	(−) 31.99
6	Nagaland	(−) 1.73
7	Sikkim	(+) 161.55
8	Tripura	(−) 176.05

[Source: From the Budget documents of the State Government.]